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Agenda item 112

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Haile Selassie **Getachew** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 112 appear in the report of the Committee contained in document A/57/649.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 39th, 40th, 43rd, 44th and 45th meetings, on 3, 4, 10, 11 and 28 March 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.39, 40, 43, 44 and 45).

3. For its further consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration"

Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration" (A/57/372) and his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/57/372/Add.1)

Information and communication technology strategy

Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/620)

Standards of accommodation for air travel

Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/485)

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Oral report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see A/C.5/57/SR.39)

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Support costs related to extrabudgetary activities in organizations of the United Nations system"

Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Support costs related to extrabudgetary activities in organizations of the United Nations system" (A/57/442) and his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/57/442/Add.1)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/57/434, paras. 5 and 6)

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.55

4. At the 45th meeting, on 28. March, the representative of Belgium, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on this question, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration" (A/C.5/57/L.55).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.55 without a vote (see para. 9, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.56

6. At the 45th meeting, on 28 March, the representative of Belgium, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of the informal consultations on this question, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Information and communication technology strategy" (A/C.5/57/L.56).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.56 without a vote (see para. 9, draft resolution II).

C. Postponement of the consideration of documents

8. For the decision of the Committee regarding the postponement of the consideration of the documents concerning (a) standards of accommodation for air travel (A/57/485 and A/C.5/57/SR.39) and (b) the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Support costs related to extrabudgetary activities in organizations of the United Nations system" (A/57/442 and Add.1 and A/57/434), see document A/57/648/Add.1.

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

9. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000 and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,

Recalling its resolutions 56/253 of 24 December 2001 and 57/284 of 20 December 2002 and decision 57/575 of 20 December 2002,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration"[1] and the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board thereon;[2]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The results approach in the United Nations: implementing the United Nations Millennium Declaration"[1] and the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board thereon;[2]

2. *Requests* the Committee for Programme and Coordination to consider the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board at its forty-third session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

Draft resolution II
Information and communication technology strategy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/239 and 56/253 of 24 December 2001,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on an information and communication technology strategy,[3] and welcomes the significant step it represents in developing a strategic framework to guide the further development of information and communication technology in the United Nations, as called for in its resolution 56/239;

2. *Stresses* the importance of information and communication technology as a strategic tool for strengthening the functioning of the United Nations, and recognizes its potential for application throughout the Organization to improve effectiveness and work

[1] See A/57/372.
[2] See A/57/372/Add.1.
[3] A/57/620.

practices, to facilitate multilingualism, including public information activities, and to enhance programme delivery, as mandated;

3. *Notes with interest* key elements of the approach set out by the Secretary-General, notably the three broad areas of sharing and dissemination of information, administration and management, and the servicing of United Nations organs and governing bodies as a framework for classifying initiatives; priority given to robust infrastructure, system security, reliable field connectivity, and internal human resources capacity-building; a governance structure; and the requirement to ensure that investments in information and communication technology generate tangible returns commensurate with their cost;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide further information and to make proposals, to be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, on the further strengthening of governance and central leadership arrangements, including (a) a mechanism to assess the results achieved and apply the lessons learned and (b) the suggestion made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[4] that the head of the Information Technology Services Division of the Office of Central Support Services be enabled to act as a chief information and communication technology officer of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General also to make proposals on how best to reflect this function in the organizational structure of the Organization;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the information and communication technology requirements for the various duty stations and the regional commissions, in particular those located in developing countries, are fully integrated into the strategy, and that appropriate provision is made to allow the implementation of information and communication technology in those offices;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to provide, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, the following additional information:

(a) An update on the status of projects identified in the strategy;

(b) The return on investment anticipated for planned and proposed major projects, in as quantitative terms as possible;

(c) Specific plans to strengthen the information and communication technology infrastructure and the functionality this would provide, measures to strengthen system security and the means to ensure system reliability and maintenance, indicating, where possible, how they compare with practices in similar organizations;

(d) The specific objectives for the planned or proposed further development of connectivity with the various duty stations, field missions, regional commissions, the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994;

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[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), para. 87.

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to address, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, the optimum placement in the Organization of technical functions currently housed in the Information Technology Services Division that are not information and communication technology functions;

8. *Notes* that the provisions of the present resolution include guidelines that should assist the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its consideration of the information and communication technology strategy, and decides to revert to this question and the report of the Secretary-General in the light of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee thereon, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.